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GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS

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BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

(The size of books is given in inches to the nearest half inch.)

NORTH AMERICA

Nature Sketches in Temperate America. A Series of Sketches and a Popular Account of Insects, Birds and Plants, Treated from some Aspects of their Evolution and Ecological Relations. By Joseph Lane Hancock, M.D., F.E.S. xviii and 451 pp., illustrations and index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1911. \$2.75. 9 x 6½.

The relation of animal and plant life to their natural surroundings is the controlling theme of this series of popular and suggestive essays brought together by Dr. Hancock in attractive form. The book is definitely planned to introduce the general reader and young student to the philosophy of evolution. To this end a brief discussion of the laws of organic evolution as accepted by the principal workers in the field of biological science to-day forms the introduction to each section, this being followed, in each case, by varied and interesting examples drawn from the author's observations afield, and illustrated by excellent photographs and colored plates. In view of the late utterances on protective coloring and the like from some of our poet-naturalists and recent travelers, Dr. Hancock's chapters on Protective Resemblances, Mimicry, and Warning Colors will be found interesting reading. The book should prove a treasure-house of information and suggestion to the teacher or parent who would lead the younger generation to a real contact with nature and to a realization of the oneness of all life. Its usefulness is increased by a list of the 225 illustrations, as well as by an excellent index and a list of classified habitats of various groups of Orthoptera with definitions of their environing formations.

C. W. HOTCHKISS.

AFRICA

In the Heart of Africa. By The Duke Adolphus Frederick of Mecklenburg. Translated by G. E. Maberly-Oppler. xx and 281 pp., maps and illustrations. Cassell and Co., Ltd., London and New York, 1910. 10 x 7.

One of the best books on any part of Africa in recent years. The expedition made a systematic investigation of the northwestern part of German East Africa, the Central African Rift Valley from Lake Kivu to Lake Albert and the northeastern confines of the Congo State. It was carried out under the leadership of the Duke of Mecklenburg in fourteen months (1907-08). The party had almost unequalled material supplies and a scientific staff of the best quality. The details of the scientific outcome are reserved for the volumes that are to follow this popular report of the work, but the book contains a good summary of the results. A marked feature of the expedition was the great extent and variety of the collections. Such a notable mass of important scientific material has seldom been collected in so short a time.